



BEAR POND CURRENTS

Spring 2003

BPIA Representatives

President

Mary Monahan Wallace
224-7198

Vice President

Dick Bray
224-7763

Secretary

Peggy Poskus
224-7801

Treasurer

Connie Bilodeau
224-7487

Board Of Directors

Bruce Goddard - 224-8034
Mike Gordon - 224-7812
Ken Holt - 224-7925
Bill Lamb - 224-7739
Bernie McAllister - 224-7611
Kent Mitchell - 224-7375

Newsletter & Website Editor

Rich Bray - 224-8036
rnbrayjr@msn.com

Committee Chairs

- ◆ Gate Keeper - Moe LeClerc
- ◆ Dam Fundraiser - Goddards
- ◆ Loon Nest - The Pillsburys
- ◆ Membership - Tim Verrill
- ◆ Monitors - R. Bray, K. Holt, K. Mitchell

Other Important Numbers

Hartford Town Office 388-2674
Turner Office 225-3414
Game Warden - 657-2345

Website is Launched

At the August meeting in 2002 the membership approved funding for an internet site. Over the winter I started to pull together articles, photos, maps, and links to create our new website that can be found at www.bearpondme.org. Please visit the site and send photos, and ideas on how we can make it more useful.

Rich Bray



BEAR POND IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



Welcome to the website of the Bear Pond Improvement Association.

The Bear Pond Improvement Association (BPIA) is volunteer-based organization of nearly 200 member families whose purpose is to oversee the well-being of Big Bear and Little Bear Ponds, and the surrounding watershed in Turner and Hartford Maine. Our goals are to maintain the aesthetic qualities of Bear Pond, assuring enjoyment for all of its wildlife, and human, residents.

BPIA is a non-profit organization founded in 1958 to perform the following services to ensure the quality of life at Bear Pond.

- Maintain and operate the outlet (the Dam) and the water level of the Pond, as required by state law.
- Test and monitor the water quality.
- Educate residents about lake ecology, and threats to water quality.
- Promote public safety and safeguard the pond's wildlife and environment.

This site is designed to provide educational information, and a source of historical data. Some of the information is available as Adobe Acrobat files. To view these files you will need Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded for free by clicking on this button.



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For information or suggestions, e-mail us at webmaster@bearpondme.org
BPIA P.O. Box 4 North Turner, ME 04266



Schedule Of Activities

2003 BPIA MEETINGS

Sunday, June 29th — July 27th — August 31
At Boofy Quimby Hall at 9:00 AM

July 4th Boat Parade

Meet at 2:00PM in the front of Goodwin's camp on the west side of the pond.. There will be a prize for best decorated boat..

2003 Pot Luck Supper

Saturday July 19th, 2003 at 5:00PM

Bear Pond Currents Is The Seasonal Newsletter



Of The Bear Pond Improvement Association

BPIA, P.O. Box 4 North Turner, ME 04266

President's Letter

Greetings Bear Ponders,

I hope this newsletter finds all of you healthy and ready to return to the pond. I have been up twice already, once in April and once in May and I seemed to bring only cold and rainy days. But that did not deter me as the pond is beautiful no matter what the weather.

BPIA has been busy even in the winter. Dick Bray and the watershed committee have met during the winter and they will be reporting at our June 29 meeting. Hopefully, Jeff Stern from the Oxford County Conservation Committee will be at our meeting to update us and to discuss plans for this coming year.

The boat parade will once again kick off on the Fourth of July from the west side of the pond near the entrance to Little Bear. Time is 2 PM. Last year was so patriotic that people on the shore and in the pontoons and boats were really moved by the show of patriotism. This is such a simple, down home tradition and one I want to pass on to my daughter. She is coming up for the long weekend just so as not to miss the boat parade.

I hope to see all of you at the meeting to renew friendships, catch up on winter news, and kick off another great summer.

Warmly,
Mary Monahan Wallace, President

Water Testing Update

Late in the 2002 season, the Pond Monitors (K. Holt, K. Mitchell, R. Bray) spotted algae clouds in the narrows between Big & Little Bear. This was the first time that any of us had ever seen such significant formations of algae. This observation is cause for concern, and is a warning signal that phosphorus pollution is a real threat..

Over the winter we received the water testing results from 2002, and these results confirmed the threat. The average chlorophyll (the pigment in algae) results were the highest ever recorded and there was one test date where levels were 2-3 times higher than any previous test for both Big Bear, and Little Bear.

These observations appear to provide evidence that Bear Pond is threatened by uncontrollable algae growth triggered by phosphorus pollution from rainwater run-off and erosion.

The watershed survey identified numerous problems sites that could contribute to this problem. This season we will start to fix some of these problems to try to reduce the threat to water quality.

Rich Bray

Ice Out Dates

| Year | Big Bear | Little Bear |
|------|----------|-------------|
| 2003 | April 21 | April 21 |
| 2002 | April 12 | April 13 |
| 2001 | April 28 | April 28 |
| 2000 | April 5 | April 7 |
| 1999 | April 10 | April 11 |
| 1998 | April 9 | April 9 |
| 1997 | April 25 | April 25 |
| 1996 | April 20 | April 21 |

Erosion Demonstration a Huge Success

Nearly 20 people gathered promptly at 9:30 AM, Saturday, August 17 to help repair two erosion problems that had been documented by the watershed survey. The first site was the Bray beach on Rt. 219, Bear Pond Road. There 21 pine saplings were replanted to help stem the erosion of the land above the shoreline. Excitement and camaraderie filled the air as neighbors dug, planted, and watered.

From there, a group moved to the Wallace beach also on 219 to plant 3 butterfly plants that will eventually cover a 4 foot by 12 foot area. These plants are native to Maine and able to withstand drought, neglect, sandy soil and salt spread on the road in winter.

Jeff Stern on the Oxford County Soil and Water Commission oversaw the work to be sure it would accurately address the erosion problems. He commented that he was impressed at the large number who showed up to help and get two sites done within two hours instead of just one. Both sites required permits from the DEP because they are within 25 feet of the shore line.

The demonstration showed how simple and inexpensive it will be to correct the majority of the 171 erosion problems discovered around the pond.

The volunteers included:

Dick, Claire, and Rich Bray
Jack Frost
Fred Gowell
Randy Swann
Gerard and Pat Samson
Mo LeClerc
Bruce Goddard
Bill Weeks
Eva and Pater Leavitt
Pete Pillsbury
Ken Holt
Barry Therrien
Mary Wallace



Gerard and Pat Samson have volunteered to water the plants on the Wallace property and Mr. Bryant roped off the plants to insure that they are protected

By Mary Wallace

Highlights of August Meeting

- 42 members were in attendance
- Treasurer's Report:
Checking \$2604.80
Dam Fund \$4837.95
Savings \$1040.79
- Membership voted to make the annual donation to the Turner Rescue of \$200, \$75 to Boofy Quimby Hall for the use of the hall for BPIA meetings, and the annual COLA dues of \$2. per family.
- IP grant money will be spent to have large aluminum signs posted at the boat launch and around the pond warning families of the \$500 fine if milfoil is brought into the pond by boats, motors, transports or jetskis.
- Water Testing: See article elsewhere
- Membership: Over 70 families who enjoy the pond have not become members this year. Membership dues pay for the water testing, the newsletter, care and repair of the dam as well as insurance on the dam. Families are encouraged to join. Dues are \$15, payable to BPIA, P.O. Box 4, North Turner 04266.
- Dam Committee: Dam to open October 1. Please put your names on your docks in case they wash away. Better yet, be sure to secure them for the winter.

Doreen Hangs Up Her Pad & Pen

After over ten years, Doreen Maxwell has resigned as Secretary of the Association. President Mary Wallace presented her with a bouquet of flowers and told the membership it was only a small token of all the work and support Doreen has given over the years. Despite her departure, Doreen assured everyone she will continue to be the loyal supporter of the BPIA and Bear Pond that she has always been.

Classifieds

Gardening

**Hello to our
friends
from the
BPIA**



From Brian & Cindy Tibbetts
Hummingbird Farm
*Where Innovative Gardener's
Ideas Take Root*

202 Bean St., Turner 224-8220

<http://hummingbirdfarm.net/>

Project Starts to Improve Water Quality

By Jeff Stern, Oxford County SWCD

We waited a long time, but a grant project to protect and improve water quality in the Bear Pond Watershed has finally started! This grant wouldn't be possible if not for the hard work put in by the Bear Pond Improvement Association (BPIA) over the years.

In 2001, the BPIA, Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District and Maine Department of Environmental Protection conducted a survey in the Bear Pond Watershed. We looked for places where erosion washes soil into the lakes. Soil carries phosphorus, a plant nutrient, with it. If too much phosphorus enters a lake, a bloom of algae can result, which ruins water quality, recreation and fishing, and is enormously expensive to control.

Our survey found 173 sites around the lakes and in upland areas that drain to the lakes where soil erosion threatens water quality. Many were along roads, driveways and at residences.

The good news is that most problems can be fixed simply and inexpensively. For example, planting shrubs along the shoreline might be all that is needed to control erosion. In some places, soil erosion from roads and their associated ditches present a bigger challenge. These problems can be more expensive to fix.

That's where the new "Bear Pond Water Quality Improvement Project" comes in. This is an exciting opportunity! The grant allows us to share the cost of reducing erosion on private property and at town sites. We are already working to draw up designs for problem areas on LaPlante Road (a private road on Little Bear Pond in Hartford) and at the Turner town beach. Other town road sites we will work over the two and a half year project include Pratt Hill Road and Bear Mountain Road in Hartford, and Beach Street in Turner.

But there's more to the grant than that. Through the grant, we can provide "technical assistance" to anyone who lives in the Bear Pond Watershed. This is how it works: a landowner concerned about erosion on his or her property requests technical assistance. (You can call me at the phone number listed below.) We visit the site and make recommendations.

There's NO CHARGE for the service. The landowner is not obligated to implement our recommendations (although we hope they do!). Technical assistance can give you a different perspective on solving a nagging erosion problem on your land.

The grant also includes educational events like workshops. All the pieces are now in place – the completed watershed survey, funding to fix erosion problems, an enthusiastic community – to do great things to protect water quality in Big and Little Bear Ponds.

For more information, please call me at 207-743-5789, ext. 3.